

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 23 June 1857.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 21st inst., in which referring to my letter of 27th ult. you ask me to give certain instructions & obtain certain information relative to the coinage of 3 cent pieces ^{at N. Orleans}, I have to state that I this day write in accordance with the wishes of the Department. It is proper that I should mention that in a letter which I addressed to the Sup^t on the 12th inst., I advised him, in case he should have received no instructions from the Department when ready to issue the coin, to distribute one-half thereof to the public at large, on demand, and the other half to Government officers in the region supplied with coin by the Mint, reserving bills of lading & receipts as vouchers, in conformity to our own practice. I presume he has acted according to my suggestion, in which case it is to be hoped he will obtain the sanction of the Department.

I have the honor to be,
very respectfully &c

R. M. Patterson
Director?

Wm. L. Dodge, Esq. }
Atty Secy of Treas }
P.S. The balance of the deposits to purchase cents for Norfolk is

\$2,390, respecting which our Treasurer desires instructions.